



NEWS RELEASE

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## Man Charged with Attempted Murder, Assault Following Attacks in El Monte

A 26-year-old man has been charged today with shooting at a motorist and police officers over a two-day period in the San Gabriel Valley, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Richard Refugio Cortez (dob 7/4/90) of Baldwin Park has been charged with seven felony counts in case KA114366: two counts of attempted murder of a peace officer, two counts of assault on a peace officer with a semiautomatic firearm and one count each of attempted murder, assault with a semiautomatic firearm and fleeing a pursuing peace officer's motor vehicle while driving recklessly.

The felony complaint includes a special allegation that the defendant personally and intentionally discharged a firearm, which caused great bodily injury. Additionally, the charging document alleges that Cortez personally inflicted great bodily injury during the commission of the crime.

Cortez is scheduled to be arraigned today in Department 4 of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, El Monte Branch. Prosecutors are asking that bail be set at \$4.03 million.

On the morning of Jan. 10, Cortez reportedly drove up alongside a motorcyclist and shot at the victim through his car window, prosecutors said. As the victim tried to run away, the defendant allegedly exited his vehicle and shot at the motorcyclist again before reentering his car and fleeing the scene, prosecutors added.

The next day, an El Monte police officer attempted to pull over Cortez for a vehicle code violation, but the defendant reportedly did not stop his car, prosecutors said. A high-speed police pursuit then began on the 60 Freeway. The defendant allegedly shot at the pursuing officer, damaging the officer's car and a second patrol car, according to prosecutors.

Cortez's vehicle came to a stop and the defendant tried to flee on foot, but was ultimately apprehended in the 13000 block of Amar Road in Baldwin Park, prosecutors said.

If convicted as charged, Cortez faces a maximum possible sentence of life in state prison.

The case is being investigated by the El Monte Police Department.

#### **[About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#)**

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.